



TO Ross Powers  
X-De Jil  
4/11/94 3/10/94

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE  
25089 CENTER RIDGE ROAD  
WESTLAKE, OH 44145

March 10, 1994

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Citizen Tip - ITT Lester Industries, 25661 Cannon Road,  
Bedford Heights, Ohio

**FROM:** A. R. Winklhofer, Chief  
Eastern District Office (SE-W) *AW*

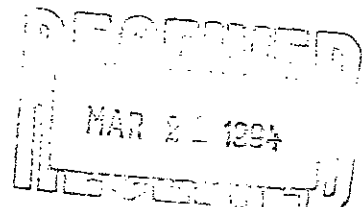
**TO:** Richard Karl, Acting Chief (HSE-5J)  
Emergency Response Branch

The attached letter from \_\_\_\_\_ is forwarded for your information and appropriate action. I have also forwarded by copy of this memo, the letter to the Cleveland OSHA office for consideration.

if we can be of assistance, please let me know.

Attachments

pc: Robert Medlock, Director, OSHA



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3/3/94

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
25089 Center Ridge Rd.  
Westlake, OH

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am contacting you because I believe that a dangerous situation exists, of which you should be aware! I am speaking of a Die-Cast Plant in Bedford Heights. The company is *ITT LESTER INDUSTRIES*, located at 25661 Cannon Rd., Bedford Hts., OH. Please note that I DO NOT work for Lester, nor for any division of ITT.

I feel there is a dangerous situation at this plant because of a high number of employees who have contracted the same form of cancer. There have been approximately 7 employees of this plant who have died due to Brain Tumors, and Lung Cancer. What I find alarming is that most of these people had BOTH form, and that they were 'incurable'. At least 3 of these people were known to me personally, and there is no known link (ie. Life style), other than that they all worked for ITT LESTER for many years.

I do have another reason for my concern, and for my belief that this is not mere coincidence. My husband works for a 'Concrete Resurfacing' company which did some work at Lester. They removed, and replaced a concrete machine pad. In the course of the project, they were required to dig a trench, after removing the old concrete pad. In the soil, many feet below the original pad, they encountered a substance that they discribed as smelling like a 'solvent', that made them all very ill! My husband told me that he felt his lungs were coated with some substance, and he had great difficulty with breathing for 3 weeks after the job was completed. They were later asked to come back and do more work. However, my husband (who is the crew foreman), his employer (President of company), and the laborers, all refused to go back to the plant! It seems that they were all ill for some time, and were literally 'frightened' by the feeling in their chests afterward. These men are not 'wimps'. They work with some very toxic chemicals in their own field, and have never had a problem with them.

I urge you to look into this matter as soon as humanly possible. It is not 'coincidence' for so many to have died from the same causes, and it is not 'common' for a person to have BOTH Lung and Brain Cancers. A number of my relatives work in this plant, and I have come to fear for their health.

Sincerely,

Concerned Citizen